

U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 10/815,275
Applicant: Barron, et al.

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph on page five of the specification, specifically lines 8-21, with the following amended paragraph:

The radial interior surface 24 of the locking ring 22 is slanted to cooperate with a complementary surface 48 on the gripper ring 26. The gripper ring 26 has a longitudinally extending gap or slot 25 with a predetermined width to accommodate reduction of the circumference of gripper ring 26 upon coaxial compression of gripper ring 26 by the radial interior of locking ring 22 due to the cooperation of slanted surface 24 and complementary surface 48. The radial inner surface of gripper ring 26 further includes a plurality of gripping members or teeth (42, 44, 46, and 48) (40, 42, 44, and 46) extending radially inwardly and adapted to engage the outer surface of pipe 12 upon coaxial compression of gripper ring 26. Preferably, each tooth is provided with a radially extending surface and an angled backup surface which meet to form an inner edge. Accordingly, the width of slot 25 may be compressed from a first position (FIGS. 6 and 7) where the radial inner surface of the gripper ring does not engage or grip the pipe 12 to a second position (FIG. 8) where slot 25 has a smaller width and the radial inner surface of the gripper ring engages or grips the surface of pipe 12.